



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Midway, K4M, Kickoff Delayed by Plane Problems

While the DX world waited anxiously for the appearance of operations from Midway Island, a note sent to various DX Newsletter editors from Team Co-leader Tom Harrell (N4XP) on Saturday, October 10 advised us of the bad news. The plane chartered to take the team to Midway had developed an oil leak in one of its engines. Two efforts to repair the problem up until Saturday evening had been unsuccessful. The team was searching frantically for an alternative carrier with little success.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service was sympathetic with the difficulty, but will not extend the ending date of the effort because the dates for the DXpedition were chosen to fit between two major bird migratory patterns. And, the expected follow-on migratory period of a different species of birds has already begun.

As this it being written on Sunday morning, October 11, no new news is available. Hopefully, some good news will appear later this day.

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

SEDCO 2009—An Epilog

SEDCO 2009 is now in the history book, and it will record the expected high quality presentations that have become a hallmark of the SEDCO experience. The lineup of speakers was detailed in the September 2009 issue of the *Pileup*. For those of you who have never been to Pigeon Forge for this fine event, the Tennessee Contest Group has placed two of the presentations on their website. The link to where these presentations can be downloaded from is:

<http://www.k4ro.net/tcg/sedco/index.html>

One of the presentations is “Contesting 101” and is a discussion of the ease and enjoyment of contesting at whatever level you’d like to participate at. Another presentation is “RTTY Contesting Basics”, and it offers a tutorial in getting started in contesting in RTTY. Your editor, recently working on getting a RTTY station setup, found this presenta-

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
NA4L (Near Hillsville, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NA4L (“C NA4L”)	
NA4L (AR Cluster via Telnet)	cdxa.no-ip.org	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC	

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tion quite interesting. The evening concluded with K4UEE's newly released DVD on the Desecheo (K4D) DXpedition.

For the first time ever, the weather was a little sour at this year's event. Fortunately it did little to affect those inside the convention hall listening to the presentations. At the first break, however, management of the Mainstay Suites made an announcement that cars in the parking lot near the creek that runs about 100 feet from the Suites front door needed to be moved because the overflowing creek would require wading to one's car! Those rains don't take long to run out of the Smoky Mountains to the valleys below! Take a look at the photo below.



The waters are arisin' and the hams came one by one to fetch their cars.

The Pileup

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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$35 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$20 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

Welcome New Member

We've arrived in October with yet another new member. **Craig England (KF2X)** of Lamar, SC joined CDXA in the past month. Many of us got the opportunity to meet Craig at the CDXA Barbeque held on October 10. Hopefully we'll all get to meet Craig as time moves along. Welcome to CDXA, Craig!

Record QSL Transit Time??

Wayne Ashworth (W4HG) dropped your editor a note recently. Here's what Wayne had to say:

Hi John:

One of the delights of having all your old logs computerized is finding contacts you did not know you had. I was poking around one day on QRZ.COM with Joe Blackwell's call and found that we had worked in 1959 when he was K5GFN/5, going to school in Ruston, LA while I was K4CDZ/4 in the USAF at Fort Fisher Air Force Station in Kure Beach NC at the time. It was 40M CW and Joe was QRO with 70 watts and a Globe Chief while I had 40 watts to a Viking Adventurer.

A QSL to Joe produced a response 50 years later...but only because Joe had one of his K5GFN cards left and he scanned and reproduced one for me. Not all cards come in quickly...some take a while, but they do make it.

Wayne, W4HG

If you work Joe while he is in Midway as K4M, we *think* the return QSL will come a little quicker!

Below is the QSL card.



Barbeque 2009—The Rains Held Off

Those with an eye on the weather on October 8-10 wondered if the CDXA Barbeque for 2009 was going to get rained out. Vice President Paul Ponak took a positive stance and said the event was “ON” regardless of the weather—after being ensured by Ric Porter that Ric would be able to accommodate seating for all in a dry location regardless of what was thrown our way. Other than a very few drops during a minute or two of the event, nobody got wet, but we all went home well fed with Ric’s fried chicken and wonderful South Carolina barbeque under out belts. Salads and desserts brought potluck style by the attendees ensured a “balanced diet”!

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, we’ll let the photos below tell the story.



Wayne Setzer, Lou Dietrich, and Paul Sturpe arrive early to get things started.

Shelly Pendleton, Host Ric Porter, Bev Boyd and Ken Boyd discuss the evening’s food fare!



President Ted Goldthorpe and VP Paul Ponak discuss what can be done to make the BBQ better in 2010 as the event winds down..

New member Craig England, Roger Burt and Wayne Starnes get to know each other.



Pete Manfre, Gary Greene, Wilson Caselli, Danny (N4ZC’s Brother-in-law), Dana Cobb, and Bob Southworth greet the photographer.



Mary Pedersen, Mark and Lee Tarpley, Bob Southworth, Lynette and Gary Martek sample the evening’s fare.



A sumptuous spread of food created by Ric Porter and many potluck salads and desserts ensured nobody went home hungry!



DX King News

By Dick Williams, W3OA



Item 1: Suggest a major prize for the 2010 DX King contest. Your CDXA officers have decided to offer a major prize for the 2010 DX King contest. This will be similar to the television that will be raffled off among members with a score of 150 points or more in the 2009 DX King contest. The rule that prohibits winning a trophy two years in a row will also apply to the raffle prize. The open question now is "What should the prize be?" This will be decided within the next few weeks so please send me your suggestions.

Item 2: Plan now to operate in the CQWW DX contests, SSB this month and CW next month, to add to your DX King score and contribute to CDXA's CQWW Club score.

Item 3: Here are the scores I have as of September 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
N4ZC	Unlimited	264	40	304
K4MQG	Unlimited	256	40	296
AA4SC	Unlimited	232	40	272
K4YR	Unlimited	231	40	271
W3OA	Unlimited	231	39	270
W4HG	Unlimited	228	40	268
W3GQ	Unlimited	223	39	262
N4PQX	Unlimited	215	40	255
KZ2I	Unlimited	203	40	243
WB4ROA	Unlimited	201	38	239
N1GC	Unlimited	194	39	233
K4GHS*	Unlimited	190	40	230
W3ZL	Formula	179	37	216
K4DGJ	Unlimited	166	38	204
K8YC	Unlimited	157	36	193
N2TU	Unlimited	156	36	192
K4ESE	Unlimited	150	32	182
K1MIJ	Unlimited	151	29	180
WA3GNW	Formula	126	30	156
N4UFP	Unlimited	108	29	137
NK0S	Unlimited	101	29	130
WB2RHM	Unlimited	81	24	105
N4QVM	Unlimited	77	25	102
W4WNT	Formula	81	21	102

* New addition to the list this month.

Item 4: Don't forget to send me your DX Marathon scores (w3oa@roadrunner.com) as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

CQWW, SSB, Starts Friday October 23 Even Casual Contesters Can Contribute to CDXA's Club Score

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA needs every member's help to improve our standings in the CQWW Club Competition. From 2002 to 2007 we made fairly steady progress in going from 20th place in the U.S. all the way up to 8th place. But in 2008 we fell back out of the top 10 to 12th place. If just ten more members had each made 250 QSOs in the SSB contest and 250 QSOs in the CW contest we would have been in the top ten in 2008. Remember that the CW and SSB contests are each 48 ours long so you will have all weekend to make 250 contacts. If you haven't tried contesting before you will be surprised at how easy that is—especially if you use packet spots.

The work of logging and scoring can discourage some from entering contests. But computers have changed all that and one of the best contest logging programs is free. It is N1MM Logger and you can download it at <http://www.n1mm.com/>. Pete, N4ZR, has written a step-by-step Quick Start Guide. It is also on the web at <http://www.pvrc.org/~n4zr/Quick.htm> or <http://www.pvrc.org/~n4zr/Quick.pdf>. N1MM has a lot of features you may never use. The best features to work on first are controlling your radio with your computer, using the N1MM bandmap, and establishing a Telnet connection with the DX Cluster. The bandmap will tell you which spotted stations it's most important to work to maximize your score.

Last month's Pileup describes our Contest Within a Contest, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0909.pdf>, and the marvelous prizes we are offering for your participation. Outback gift cards, trophies, certificates, and CDXA patches.

Of course, it helps to read the contest rules. They are at http://www.cqww.com/2009_Rules_cqww.pdf. The rules include instructions on how to submit your scores to CQ. Remember to use "Carolina DX Association" as your club affiliation.

Be sure to send me a summary of your score (w3oa@roadrunner.com). Please include call sign used, entry category, number of QSOs, number of countries, number of zones, and total points. We will post them on the CDXA web site as we receive them.

Steve, AA4V, will again be DX for this contest. He and N4SF will be operating a station from VP9, Ber-

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muda. When you work them, CDXA gets credit for both ends of the contact. So work them on every band you can.

Please let me know if I can be of any help.

Dick Williams

w3oa@roadrunner.com

(704) 658-0915

Roving Reporter Visits Trento, Italy

(Over the past few years, from time to time we've enjoyed reports from Fabrizio "Brix" Vedovelli (IN3ZNR) on his various DXpedition quests and personal trips to Sardinia with another CDXA member, Mauro Tomazzoni (IN3QBR). Many of you have worked both Brix and Mauro in various contests and while on DXpeditions.. This month, through the wonder of the Star Trek Transporter, your Roving Report was teletransported to Trento, Italy to allow us to learn more about Brix first hand. The return "transmission" was a little rough due to QRM, and your reporter is still trying to collect himself.)

Roving Reporter: Brix, how did you get started in ham radio?

IN3ZNR: When I was ten years old, I spent one month at home with a long illness. It was 1965 and close to my bed there was an old commercial receiver capable of medium wave and short wave reception. I discovered that (it was wintertime) during darkness I was able to hear more radio stations, very often speaking foreign languages. Tuning up and down and also trying the short wave bands, one evening I heard a strong voice coming out of my radio, saying something like, "Thank you very much from Italy Three....over, over" Wow, I jumped on my bed and I called my father asked him what could be happening on my radio (actually it was his radio). He didn't know. I think I was tuning around 40 meters, and signals came in because the Ham was using AM mode for ragchewing. I never discovered who he was, but I suspect he was one of the old timers around my area. This was my first "get in touch" with Ham radio. After 44 years I guess he's SK, but sometime I still think about his strong modulation blaring from my loudspeaker.

RR: When did you first become a ham? Have you been a ham continuously since that time?

IN3ZNR: During my school days the first year of college, a friend of mine was owner of a couple of CB radios. At that time no Club stations or School stations for Ham Radio were allowed by the Ministry of Communications here, so we were only playing with that CB radio. Seeing me transmitting with my fellow friends on the other side of the street, one of my school-mates told me that he was able to talk with the world and not only with the neighborhood. Of course, I became really curious to see how he was able to do that. He was a Ham, and his father was a Ham, too. Their station was in the middle of the city, with a tribander. After that, I was captured forever. My friend's father helped me to start studying for my license. I passed my exam for License A (with code of course) and I got my first ticket with my current callsign, IN3ZNR. In the late seventies I started my Ham radio career, and my first station was mounted in my family house. After some years on the higher bands, I start working and I got married. These two events stopped my activity and I became only a "VHF repeater operator". What a pity (from my point of view). After some years, I changed my home and luckily I became the owner of a simple but efficient shack for the HF bands. I never stopped activity, during the years I was more or less transmitting, depending on job or antenna restrictions.

RR: Would you consider your schoolmate's father your "Elmer", then?

IN3ZNR: Yes my first Elmer was IN3BRM (now SK), the father of my schoolmate. He introduced me to the hobby and helped me in licensing. After that when I was already operating on the HF bands, IN3ANE (now SK) lead me in DXing, DXCC, hunting DX and operating style.

RR: Are you an award chaser? What awards do you hold?

IN3ZNR: I'm not an avid award chaser but I surely like DXing. I like hunting for "new ones". I never had too much time to follow every important DXpedition, so I missed a lot of countries. Yet, I now have DXCC with 331 confirmed. I have focused more on 5BWAZ, and I have that award with 199 zones confirmed. I'm still lacking Zone 1 on 80 meters. (Your editor has put Brix in touch with Rich Strand, KL7RA, to see if we can't hurry that Zone 1 QSO along this winter!)

RR: Do you enjoy contesting?

IN3ZNR: Oh yes, I like it. I did a lot of effort over

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the years, operating from Sardinia (IS0), African Italy (IH9), IE9 (EU-051 for IOTA contest) and also from a mountain top contest station with my local fellow friends, with the callsign IR3Z. My favorite contests are CQWW, WPX and ARRL DX.

RR: What have been some of your memorable contesting moments?

IN3ZNR: I remember the exciting contests I've done in African Italy. To operate in a Multi-Multi Team (and Multi Single later) side by side with many other Hams (also from other countries) to reach a target is the epitome of ham radio contesting. Setting up dozen of antennas, testing radios, checking out propagation all over the HF spectrum, improving your operating skill, and learning to work as a team is the essence of high-level contesting. All this is still in my mind, and when I look to my shack's wall, I can see the plaques for 1st Place World three years in a row. But all I learned in the process is more important for sure.

RR: What was your most memorable moment as a ham?

IN3ZNR: In 1990 my home shack was very poor. In my condominium the roof was very small. There was "7O1AA" from Yemen on the air, but with my poor wire loop I wasn't able to hear them on any bands. My local fellow hams with great antennas were kidding me, saying I was losing an easy "new one". There was no DX-cluster in 1990, one evening I started to test SWR on 20 meters asking if the frequency was in use. Somebody replied asking also for my callsign. I stated my call, and he replied, "I'm 9K2CS, operating from 7O1AA.!" Wow, I gave him the report as soon as possible, and he asked me if I could make a list for him. Trust me, I said, "... sorry, thank you for the QSO, but with my poor antenna, I can't be a net controller!" I listened for a few more minutes, and after my reply there was an unbelievable pileup. No matter—I was in the log! This remained my unique QSO valid with Yemen, until 7O1YGF was cleared for DXCC.

RR: What was your funniest moment as a ham?

IN3ZNR: Just licensed, I was operating mobile on an FM repeater when a policeman stopped me along the street while I was driving. I put the microphone under my seat and I started to search for my driver's license and (of course) my Ham radio license. I was scared because I don't have a copy of my Ham license in my car. You should know I had just recently been licensed as a

Ham. I said hello to him and handed him my driver's license. After that he asked me what I was doing on the radio. I said, "I'm a Radio Amateur" He looked at me smiling and then said, "CQ CQ, What's your callsign?" Yes, he was a local Ham!! We laughed a lot and after exchanging callsigns, he didn't ask me anything more and sent me on my way.

RR: How did you get started in DXing? Do you like DXing as an end in itself or is it a byproduct of contesting?

IN3ZNR: I started DXing just by switching on my first HF transceiver. I remember that in 1979 there was a solar cycle peak and tuning 10 meters I found the band full of USA stations. But my first contact was with 7Q7LA in Malawi. This was my all time first QSO—not too bad. After that, my Elmer, IN3ANE, explained many things to me, and I started to run 10m to 40m at that time. In 1987 I was captivated by 40 meters. The band fit my needs perfectly, open in the evening and early in the morning, very good time for my working life. In three years I worked and confirmed 260 countries on that band.

RR: What is your current antenna "farm" like?

IN3ZNR: I dream about having monobanders on every band, but a Big SteppIr for 10-40 meters would be enough for my "farm". A four square on 80 meters is my second dream, but I don't have enough room in my garden. I don't think my neighbors would agree to share their garden with my vertical elements, even though I could explain to them the interesting pileups I could generate on 80 meters! Now I have here an eight element log periodic for 10m to 20 meters and a two element home brewed sloper for 40m and 80m. I have no antenna for top band.

RR: What has been your favorite rig through the years?

IN3ZNR: Do I only get one choice? I owned a lot of rigs in the past, but I think that the best transceiver on the market coupled with a poor antenna system is always worse than a poor rig coupled with a top notch antenna farm. Anyway I think that we must look at the future—meaning I suspect a software defined radio (SDR) would be the best performer. I don't have one, but I think there will be one in my future.

RR: What is your current rig?

IN3ZNR: Despite my interest in SDR, I still like the conventional equipment, so my first choice equipment is

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now a K3 by Elecraft for DXpeditions (super!) and an old Yaesu FT-1000MP for my home shack, complemented by a 500-600 watt linear amplifier.

RR: What is your favorite mode?

IN3ZNR: I must say that I'm a SSB operator, my CW skills are not very good, and I'm always envious of really good CW operators. I think I'll try to improve my code (for QSOs, of course) in the future. From my point of view, the really good operator needs to be both a CW operator and a Phone Operator. I don't yet have too much passion for Digital modes nor RTTY, but in my future, who knows?

RR: Would you say amateur radio has affected your life in any significant way?

IN3ZNR: Ham radio is an important part of my life. I have developed so many friends all over the world that my colleagues and family friends can't believe it. I tell them that on any continent or in many cities around the world I can meet someone that can help me in many ways with information, accommodations and support. With my traveling, I often get the opportunity to renew my friendships from time to time. Many others, when visiting my country, seek me out for the help I can offer them or only to have an eyeball QSO.

RR: Are any members of your family hams?

IN3ZNR: No. Nobody in my family were (or are) Hams, but luckily even though they don't understand why I spend so much time sitting on front of my radio, they support me in doing my hobby. If somebody really loves you (wife, mother, father etc.), they offer that love by helping you do what makes you happy. For that reason, I am appreciative of those who tolerate my Ham radio interests.

RR: What has your career been like? Is there any connection between your career and ham radio?

IN3ZNR: In the early day of my job career I was station manager for an FM local radio network in my area. After some years I became owner of that radio network. Radio at home, radio at work. Yes, because I liked to interface with my technicians to check our transmitters or to plan new antenna systems with them to improve our coverage area. It was very interesting but not my future business. HI. So I sold out everything in 1990 to a big national network and then I opened an Advertising Agency. Now I own two companies, and one still sells commercials for radio stations!

RR: How did you come to know about the CDXA?

IN3ZNR: I kept seeing the CDXA logo on Stateside QSLs, coming from the Carolinas and the branding with the beam and the writing: "DXer" attracted me. I learned that CDXA was a DX-club.

RR: Who was your first in-person contact with CDXA? Where was that meeting?

IN3ZNR: My first contact with CDXA was thru the Big "Rolling Stone" Joe Blackwell, AA4NN. When in Burma (XY5T, XY3C) in 2002, we became solid friends and talked about ham radio and DX clubs. My fellow friend Mauro, IN3QBR, and I decided to become members of Carolina DX Association, although not resident in USA. In 2003 I had the pleasure to be again with Joe in Botswana (A2), Lesotho (7P), and South Africa (ZS). I hope to have the pleasure to work together with Joe on some other DXpeditions very soon.

RR: We know you've been a DXpeditioner. Where have you been on DXpeditions?

IN3ZNR: I've done many DXpeditions and contesting operations. I operated from St. Lucia J6, in Cambodia as XU7AAY, in Laos as XW3ZNR two times in 2000 and 2002, in Burma in 2002 as XY5T, in Lesotho as 7P8NR, Botswana as A25FV, and in Cuba as T48Z. After that I was in Western Sahara in 2006 and 2009, and Rwanda in 2008 with the 9X0R team. Next year....I can't say now, but a new effort is on the way.

RR: What was your most memorable DXpedition and why?

IN3ZNR: I remember my second DXpedition to Laos which I did alone. I was in charge of everything, all day long. When tired, I kept thinking how many people were waiting for a new one—especially from North America—and being under pressure helped me to continue to run the pileup. I remember the amazing signals coming from USA in my early morning on 15 meters. In those years, Laos was more wanted than nowadays. Anyway, all new DXpeditions in their own way are always exciting

RR: Thanks, Brix. We all look forward to working you at your next contest or DXpedition location. We all enjoy working you when we know who is on the "other end", and your recognition of our callsigns is always a welcome surprise in the heat of a contest or pileup.

The Back Page

Midway Island DXpedition, K4M, hits a snag and has yet to arrive on the island. See Page 1.

How was **SEDCO**? It only gets better. Need a taste? Two presentations are available for downloading. See Page 1.

Fifty years to get a QSL card?? Well, sorta. This card was not lost in the bureau. See Page 2.

You didn't make the **CDXA Barbeque** this year? We have some photos for you on Page 3.

The latest news on the **DX King Award** is out. N4ZC is still leading the chase. See Page 4.

CQWW, Contest Within a Contest and some neat awards are there for the taking. See Page 4. You say you're not a tester? Then check out the "Contesting 101" presentation referenced in the article about SEDCO starting on Page 1.

The **Roving Reporter** paid a visit to **Fabrizio Vedovelli (IN3ZNR)** through the wonders of teletransporting. See Page 5.

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.